DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Minneapolis District
240 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis MN 55401-1999
Telephone: 612-334-4100

727

cc: HFI-35/FOI Staff
DWA

December 5, 1997

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Refer to MIN 98 - 12

Joseph D. Sansone
President/CEO Chairman
Pediatric Services of America, Inc.
3159 Campus Drive
Norcross, Georgia 30071

Dear Mr. Sansone:

During our recent inspection of your PSA Healthcare medical oxygen transfilling operation located in Roseville, MN, our investigator found serious violations of the Current Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) for Finished Pharmaceuticals, Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 211 (21 CFR 211). Oxygen is a drug within the meaning of Section 201(g) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (the Act). Your transfilled oxygen is adulterated within the meaning of Section 501(a)(2)(B) of the Act.

The violations observed during our inspection include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Failure to properly calibrate your oxygen analyzers in that the oxygen used to calibrate your oxygen analyzers lacks a Certificate of Analysis (C of A).

2. Failure to establish the reliability of your supplier through appropriate validation of your supplier's test results in that you do no periodic

verification of your supplier's C of A for identity and purity testing of the liquid oxygen you receive.

3. Failure to document the identity test on repaired cryogenic vessels prior to re-use.

4. Failure to document training of personnel involved with your oxygen transfilling operation.

In addition, your transfilled oxygen is misbranded within the meaning of Sections 502 and 503 of the Act:

* 502(b) in that the label fails to bear your name and place of business;
* 502(f)(1) in that its label fails to bear adequate directions for use; and
* 503(b)(4) in that its label fails to bear the statement, "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a prescription." As of December 1, 1997, the label for medical oxygen is required to bear the statement "For emergency use only when administered by properly trained personnel for oxygen deficiency and resuscitation. For all other medical applications, Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription."

The C of A you receive with your liquid oxygen from [redacted] has the box next to "Paramagnetic analyzer" checked. However, the C of A lacks the identification of the specific paramagnetic analyzer used. The model and number needs to be specified since there are several paramagnetic analyzers on the market that lack the accuracy to meet the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) requirements for medical oxygen.

For the calibration of oxygen analyzers, all gases are required to be of calibration standard and should be accompanied by a C of A certifying the test results of the oxygen contents. Calibration standards cannot be medical grade or industrial grade and should be obtained from a manufacturer of standard gases. You cannot produce your own calibration gases. Our investigator was informed that a regular cylinder was used from inventory to calibrate your analyzers. This is an unacceptable practice.

By letter dated November 12, 1997, Mr. Charles D. O'Connor, facility Director, responded to the items listed on the FDA-483. However, the responses to the following citations are inadequate in that:

* *Failure to document training of personnel responsible for performing GMP activities such as witnessing supplier oxygen analyzer test procedures and reviewing records.*

  We received a photocopy of a document entitled "Purpose of Training" and on this document there is a statement that "Training was provided to the following individual(s)..." but there are no individuals listed.

* *No periodic testing verification of the supplier's Certificate of Analysis for identity and purity testing.*

  You are required to have written procedures describing in sufficient detail how you will verify your supplier's C of A and you need to have documentation that you have verified, at least annually, your supplier's C of A. The photocopied document we received to address this FDA-483 item did not indicate method of analysis nor did it indicate what was assayed.

* *Failure to properly calibrate* [redacted] *and* [redacted] *analyzers in that oxygen used to calibrate analyzer has no Certificate of Analysis.*

  The photocopied document we received to address this FDA-483 item is not a valid C of A. The document contains no indication of what was assayed nor does it indicate the method of analysis. Again, for the calibration of oxygen analyzers, all gases are required to meet calibration standards and should be accompanied by a C of A certifying the actual test results of the oxygen contents. Calibration standards cannot be medical grade or industrial grade and should be obtained from a manufacturer of standard gases.

* *Failure to document identity test on repaired cryogenic units prior to use.*

  The documentation we received describes how to perform the identity test on repaired units. This is required to be part of your written procedures.

You also need to document each step for identity testing of the repaired units, who performed the identity testing, and when the identity testing was done.

The above indication of violations is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of deficiencies at your facility. It is your responsibility to ensure adherence with each requirement of the Good Manufacturing Practice regulations. Federal agencies are advised of the issuance of all Warning Letters about drugs so they may take this information into account when considering the award of contracts.

You should take prompt action to correct these deviations. Failure to promptly correct these deviations may result in regulatory action without further notice. Possible actions include seizure and or injunction. This is official notification that FDA expects all your locations to be in compliance.

You should notify this office in writing within 15 working days of receipt of this letter of specific steps you have taken to correct the noted violations, including an explanation of each step being taken to prevent the recurrence of similar violations. If corrective action cannot be completed within 15 working days, state the reason for the delay and the time within which the corrections will be completed.

Your reply should be sent to Compliance Officer Carrie A. Hoffman at the address indicated on the letterhead.

Sincerely,

James A. Rahto
Director
Minneapolis District

CAH/ccl

xc: Charles D. O'Connor
Director
PSA Healthcare
2471 Fairview Avenue North
Roseville, MN 55113